3

In the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for communicating between first and second unlike systems, comprising the steps of:

generating information at the first system in a first data ~~information~~ format that is native to the first system;

5   converting with a first conversion system in a first conversion operation the generated information to a master space format such that a first converted information transmission is generated;

transmitting the first converted information to a master information system;

in response to receiving the first converted information at the master information system, routing the received first converted information to a second conversion system in a ~~the~~ master data

10   system format;

at the second conversion system, converting the information transmitted thereto from the master data ~~space~~ format to a second data ~~information~~ format in a second conversion operation to provide a second converted information transmission, the second data ~~information~~ format being native to the second system; ~~and~~

15   routing the second converted information transmission to the second system ; [[.]]

and wherein the master data format comprises a finite length data packet having a unique value that has a relationship between the unique value and information in a relational database, which first and second conversion operations are associated with the relational database, such that conversion from the first data format to the master data format utilizes the information in the relational database and

20   conversion of the information in the master data format to the second data format utilizes information in the relational database.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein the master data ~~space~~ format comprises a universal data format through which all information is processed between the first and second conversion systems such that unlike information in unlike formats between one of the first and second conversion systems ~~system~~ can be made compatible with the other of the first and second

5   conversion systems.

4

Claims 3 - 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1, and further comprising the step of modifying the information received from the first system at the master information system prior to converting it to the second ~~data~~ ~~converted information~~ format for transmission to the second system in the second conversion system in accordance with a predetermined modification algorithm.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1 [[4]], wherein each of the finite length data packets have associated therewith in the unique value a classification system, such that the unique value classifies the information contained therein in a predetermined hierarchal structure.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of Claim 6, wherein each of the unique finite length data packets is divided into a plurality of portions, at least one portion associated with an entity that is permanently associated with the data packet.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of Claim 7, wherein at least another portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an entity or system that created the overall data packet.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of Claim 7, wherein one portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an item or an object that is uniquely defined by the finite length data packet.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of Claim 7, wherein each portion of the finite length data packet is associated with information that is contained within the relational database and associated therewith.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1 [[4]], wherein the finite length data packet has a universal format associated with the master information system as the master data format

5

such that each of the first and second data conversion system can determine the relationship between each of the finite length data packets and information stored in a relational database.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim _1_ [[4]], wherein the generated information at the first system in the first data format comprises a plurality of the finite length data packets arranged as a transaction packet.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets comprises a value that is associated with a process that is utilized in the conversion operation in either the first or second conversion system.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets in the transaction packet is associated with a data value in the relational database.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for communicating with first and second unlike systems to an unlike master information system for processing of information therein, comprising the steps of:

5 generating first information at the first system in a first data information format that is native to the first system;

generating second information at the second system in a second data information format that is native to the second system;

converting with a first conversion system in a first conversion operation the first generated information to a master data space format such that a first converted information transmission
10 is generated;

transmitting the first converted information to the master information system;

converting with a second conversion system in a second conversion operation the generated information to the master data space format such that a second converted information transmission is generated;

15 transmitting the second converted information to the master information system; and

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
S/N 09/841,135
Atty. Dkt. No. ATTA-25,441

6

in response to receiving the first and second converted information at the master information system, processing the received first and second converted information in the master data system format in accordance with a predetermined processing algorithm to provide a result: [[.]]

and wherein the master data format comprises a finite length data packet having a unique value that has a relationship between the unique value and information in a relational database, which first and second conversion operations are associated with the relational database, such that conversion from the first data format to the master data format utilizes the information in the relational database and conversion from the second data format to the master data format utilizes the information in the relational database.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 15, wherein the master data space format comprises a universal data format through which all information is processed from the first and second conversion systems such that unlike information in unlike formats from one of the first and second conversion systems can be made compatible with the other of the first and second conversion systems master space format.

Claims 17 - 18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 15 [[18]], wherein each of the finite length data packets have associated therewith in the unique value a classification system, such that the unique value classifies the information contained therein in a predetermined hierarchal structure.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of Claim 19, wherein each of the unique finite length data packets is divided into a plurality of portions, at least one portion associated with an entity that is permanently associated with the data packet.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of Claim 20, wherein at least another portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an entity or system that created the overall data packet.

7

Claim 22 (Original): The method of Claim 20, wherein one portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an item or an object that is uniquely defined by the finite length data packet.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of Claim 20, wherein each portion of the finite length data packet is associated with information that is contained within the relational database and associated therewith.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 15 [[18]], wherein the finite length data packet has a universal data format associated with the master information system as the master data format such that each of the first and second data conversion systems can determine the relationship between each of the finite length data packets and information stored in a relational database.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 15 [[18]], wherein the first and second generated information at the respective one of the first and second conversion systems in the respective first or second data format comprises a plurality of the finite length data packets arranged as a transaction packet.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of Claim 25, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets comprises a value that is associated with a process that is utilized in the conversion operation in either the first or second conversion systems.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of Claim 25, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets in the transaction packet is associated with a data value in the relational database.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
S/N 09/841,135
Atty. Dkt. No. ATTA-25,441

8

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method for communicating between first and second unlike systems, comprising the steps of:

generating information at the first system in a first data ~~information~~ format that is native to the first system;

5   converting with a first conversion system in a first conversion operation the generated information to a master data ~~space~~ format compatible with a first master information system and recognizable thereby, such that a first converted information transmission is generated;

transmitting the first converted information to the first master information system;

in response to receiving the first converted information at the first master information

10   system, converting the received first converted information to a form recognizable by a second master information system in the master data ~~space~~ format as master converted first converted information in a first master conversion operation;

in response to receiving the master converted first converted information at the second master information system, routing the received master converted first converted information to a second

15   conversion system in the master data ~~space~~ format;

at the second conversion system, converting the information transmitted thereto from the master data ~~space~~ format to a second data ~~information~~ format in a second conversion operation to provide a second converted information transmission, the second data ~~information~~ format being native to the second system; ~~and~~

20   routing the second converted information transmission to the second system<u>;</u> [[.]]

<u>and wherein the master data format comprises a finite length data packet having a unique value that has a relationship between the unique value and information in a first relational database, which first conversion operation and first master conversion operation are associated with the relational database, such that conversion from the first data format to the master data format utilizes the</u>

25   <u>information in the relational database and conversion of the information in the master data format in the first master information system to the master data format in the second master conversion system utilizes information in the relational database.</u>

9

Claim 29 (Original): The method of Claim 28, wherein the master space format comprises a universal format through which all information is processed between the first and second systems such that unlike information in unlike formats between the first and second system can be made compatible with the other of the first and second systems.

Claims 30 - 31 (Cancelled)

Claim 32. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 28, and further comprising the step of modifying the information received from the first system at either the first or second master information systems prior to converting it to the second data converted information format for transmission to the second system in the second conversion system in accordance with a predetermined modification algorithm.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 28 31, wherein each of the finite length data packets have associated therewith in the unique value a classification system, such that the unique value classifies the information contained therein in a predetermined hierarchal structure.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of Claim 33, wherein each of the unique finite length data packets is divided into a plurality of portions, at least one portion associated with an entity that is permanently associated with the data packet.

Claim 35 (Original): The method of Claim 34, wherein at least another portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an entity or system that created the overall data packet.

Claim 36 (Original): The method of Claim 34, wherein one portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an item or an object that is uniquely defined by the finite length data packet.

10

Claim 37 (Original): The method of Claim 34, wherein each portion of the finite length data packet is associated with information that is contained within the relational database and associated therewith.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 28 [[31]], wherein the finite length data packet has a universal format associated with the master information system as the master data format such that each of the first and second data conversion system can determine the relationship between each of the finite length data packets and information stored in a relational database.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 28 [[31]], wherein the generated information at the first system in the first data format comprises a plurality of the finite length data packets arranged as a transaction packet.

Claim 40 (Original): The method of Claim 39, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets comprises a value that is associated with a process that is utilized in the conversion operation in either the first or second conversion system.

Claim 41 (Original): The method of Claim 39, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets in the transaction packet is associated with a data value in the relational database.

Claims 42 - 46 (Cancelled)